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Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications CommissionConseil de la radiodiffusion et
des télécommunications canadiennes

Canada

**News Release**

November 24, 1995

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW RELIGIOUS TELEVISION STATIONS FAIL TO MEET CRTC REQUIREMENTS

OTTAWA-HULL - The CRTC today announced that it is denying seven applications for licences to operate new, single-faith religious television stations in the cities of Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Saskatoon and Steinbach (Public Notice CRTC 1995-198 and Decisions CRTC 95-849, 95-850, 95-851, 95-852, 95-853, 95-854 and 95-855).

The Commission's general policy on religious broadcasting is based on the objectives set out in the *Broadcasting Act* and is contained in Public Notice CRTC 1993-78, issued in June 1993. The policy's main objectives are to ensure that over-the-air television and radio stations operated by single-faith groups provide diverse points of view on issues of public concern - religion itself, among others - and that broadcasters adhere to a number of ethical guidelines for religious programming, including on-air fund-raising. Furthermore, as is the case with all applicants for new, over-the-air programming undertakings, the Commission expects applicants wishing to offer new religious programming services to demonstrate that they will reflect the communities they propose to serve. In the case of larger communities with a diversity of faith groups, this means providing programming to meet the needs of the various groups.

"In general, the Commission found that the applicants were unable to substantiate their proposals with concrete and viable programming and business plans", said CRTC Chairman Keith Spicer. "As a result, the Commission was not satisfied that their religious programming services would, as proposed, be balanced by the presentation of various points of view. Many were equally unable to ensure that their communities' religious diversity would be reflected in their programming."

The Commission points out, however, that it remains open to the licensing of religious programming services, providing they are in accordance with the objectives of the *Broadcasting Act* and the policy framework established by the Commission in Public Notice CRTC 1993-78.

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Copies of today's decisions and public notice are available through our Internet home page (<http://www.crtc.gc.ca>) or by contacting the public examination room of any CRTC office:

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